

MILL CREEK 2 AND 3 HYDROELECTRIC SYSTEMS,
MILL CREEK 3 FLUME KEEPERS COTTAGE SITE
Mill Creek
Yucaipa vicinity
San Bernardino County
California

HAER No. CA-2272-K

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior
1111 Jackson Street
Oakland, California 94607

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Location: The Flume Keeper's Cottage is located between the Mill Creek 3 Intake (MC 3 Intake) and the Mill Creek 3 Sandbox (MC 3 Sandbox), along the north side of Mill Creek, within Mill Creek Canyon in San Bernardino County, California. (USGS topographic map Forest Falls, Section 13; T. 1S., R. 1W.).

Significance: The Flume Keeper's Cottage is a contributing feature to the Mill Creek Hydroelectric System Historic District. During the early history of Mill Creek 3 (MC 3) system, the Flume Keeper's Cottage housed the family of the primary onsite workers. MC 3 is one of the earliest examples of a high-head hydroelectric system within the United States and one of the first commercial three-phase alternating current stations in California. Three-phase alternating later became the industry standard.

Description: The Flume Keeper's Cottage is located approximately half way between the MC 3 Intake and the MC 3 Sandbox. Although the Flume Keeper's Cottage has been demolished, the masonry components of the foundation and chimney still remain. These include the rubble stone fireplace and chimney laid in what appears to be a cementitious mortar. The former residence had a rubble stone foundation with a cement based mortar, and concrete coping. However, a section of the foundation on the north side appears to have been made of poured concrete, with concrete steps leading up to an earthen surface with a mature tree. These features, and the steel pipe handrails mounted on the outer boundaries of the foundation, appear to have been added after the building was taken down. None of the roof or wall members remain. There are rubble stone and poured concrete retaining walls abutting the hillside to the east of the former residence. Directly north of the Flume Keeper's Cottage are the remains of a second cottage that was once located at this site however only ruminants of the cottage's foundation remain.

History: The Flume Keeper's Cottage was constructed as part of the Mill Creek 3 Hydroelectric System. The MC 3 system was constructed between 1899 and 1903 by the Redlands Electric Light and Power Company, later absorbed by Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles in 1901. The MC 3 system is still in operation today and is owned by Southern California Edison. Please see the Historic Context section in the general Historic American Engineering Record for the Mill Creek 2 and 3 Hydroelectric Systems (HAER No. CA-2272) for additional information.

Sources:

Fowler, Frederick Hall. *Hydroelectric Power Systems of California and Their Extensions into Oregon and Nevada, Water-Supply Paper 493*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1923.

White, David R. M. "Cultural Resource Management Plan for the Southern California Edison Company Mill Creek Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 1934) San Bernardino County, California," June 1993.

Low, George P. "The Generating, Transmission and Distribution Systems of The Edison Electric Company of Los Angeles, Cal.," *The Journal of Electricity, Power and Gas*. vol. XIII, no. 1. January, 1903.

"Means Much to Redlands: Big Light and Power Deal Closed," *Los Angeles Times*. May 25, 1901, 8.

"Redlands Electric Light & Power Co., Edition Electric Co. of Los Angeles, Mill Creek Powerhouses," *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form*, April 30, 1985, item number 7, 10.

Secord, Paul R. "National Register Nomination: Southern California Edison Company, Mill Creek Hydroelectric System," National Park Service, 1985. The building has been declared a contributing element to the Mill Creek Hydroelectric Project Historic District.

Historian: Christeen Taniguchi, Senior Architectural Historian, and Nicole Collum, Architectural Historian II, Galvin Preservation Associates, 1611 S. Pacific Coast Highway, #104, Redondo Beach, CA 90277, 2008-2009.

Project Information: MC 2 has not operated since 1992 when it was damaged during floods. It was not, however, decommissioned. The Southern California Edison Company, in conjunction with the San Bernardino National Forest, the agency that owns the property, proposes to formally decommission the facility. This process will include filling the sandbox and forebay with slurry, and removing the metal features. Although MC 3 is still in operation, it is also being recorded as part of this project because of the system's close association with MC 2.

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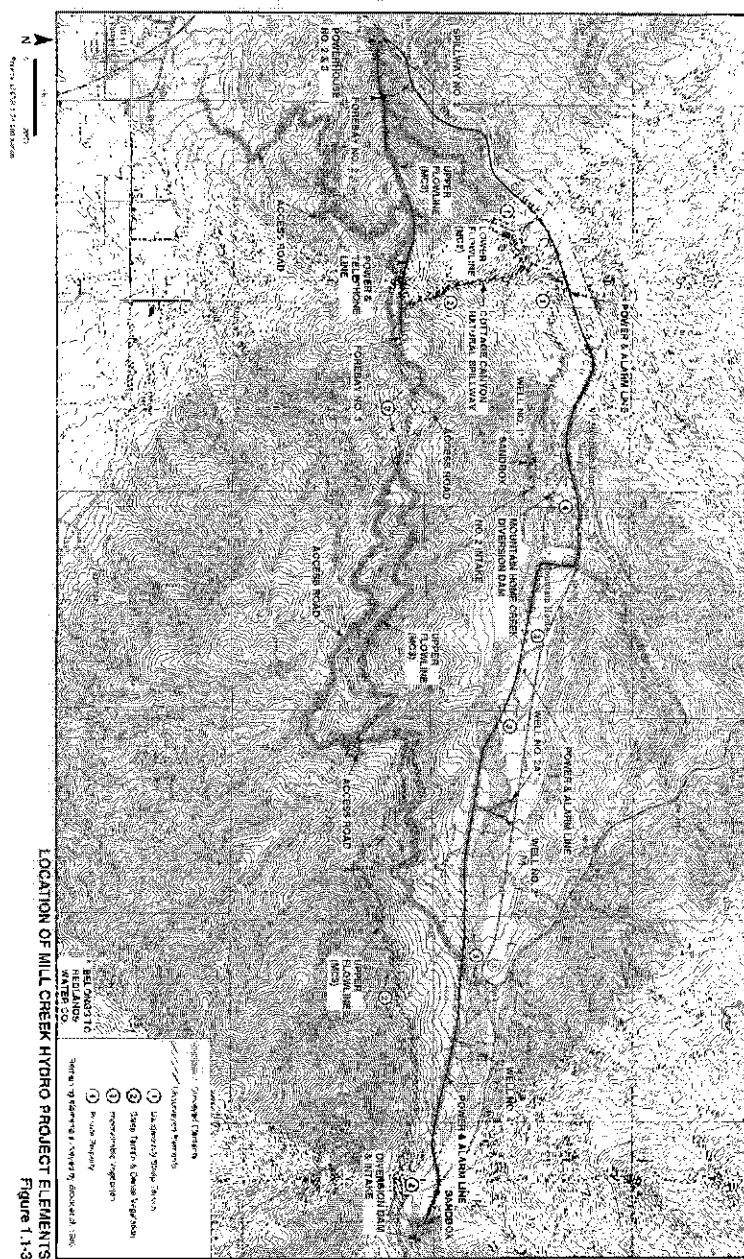
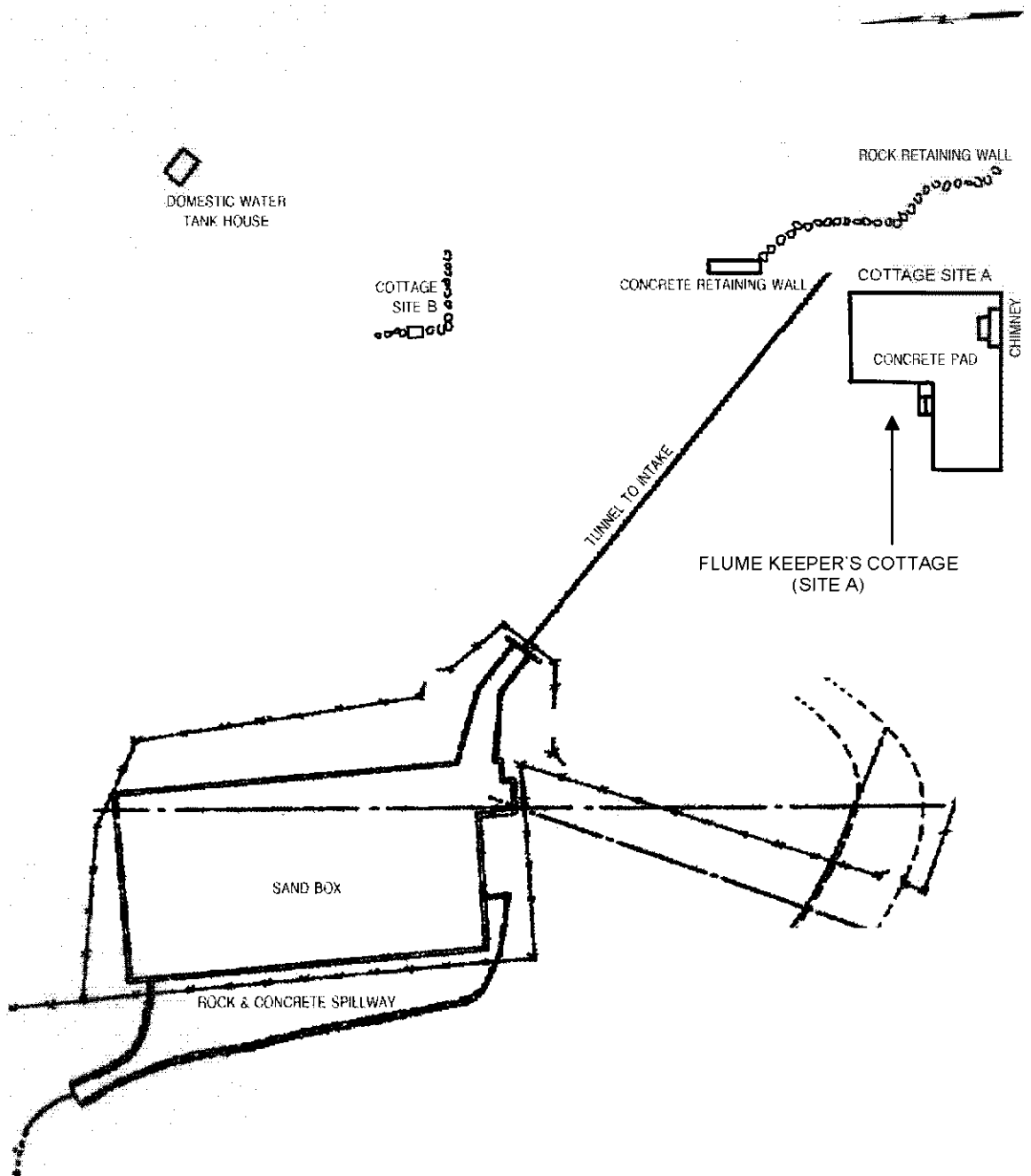


Figure 1.1-3

Location of Mill Creek Hydro Project Elements. (Map Courtesy of Southern California Edison)

MILL CREEK 3 FLUME KEEPER'S COTTAGE SITE MAP



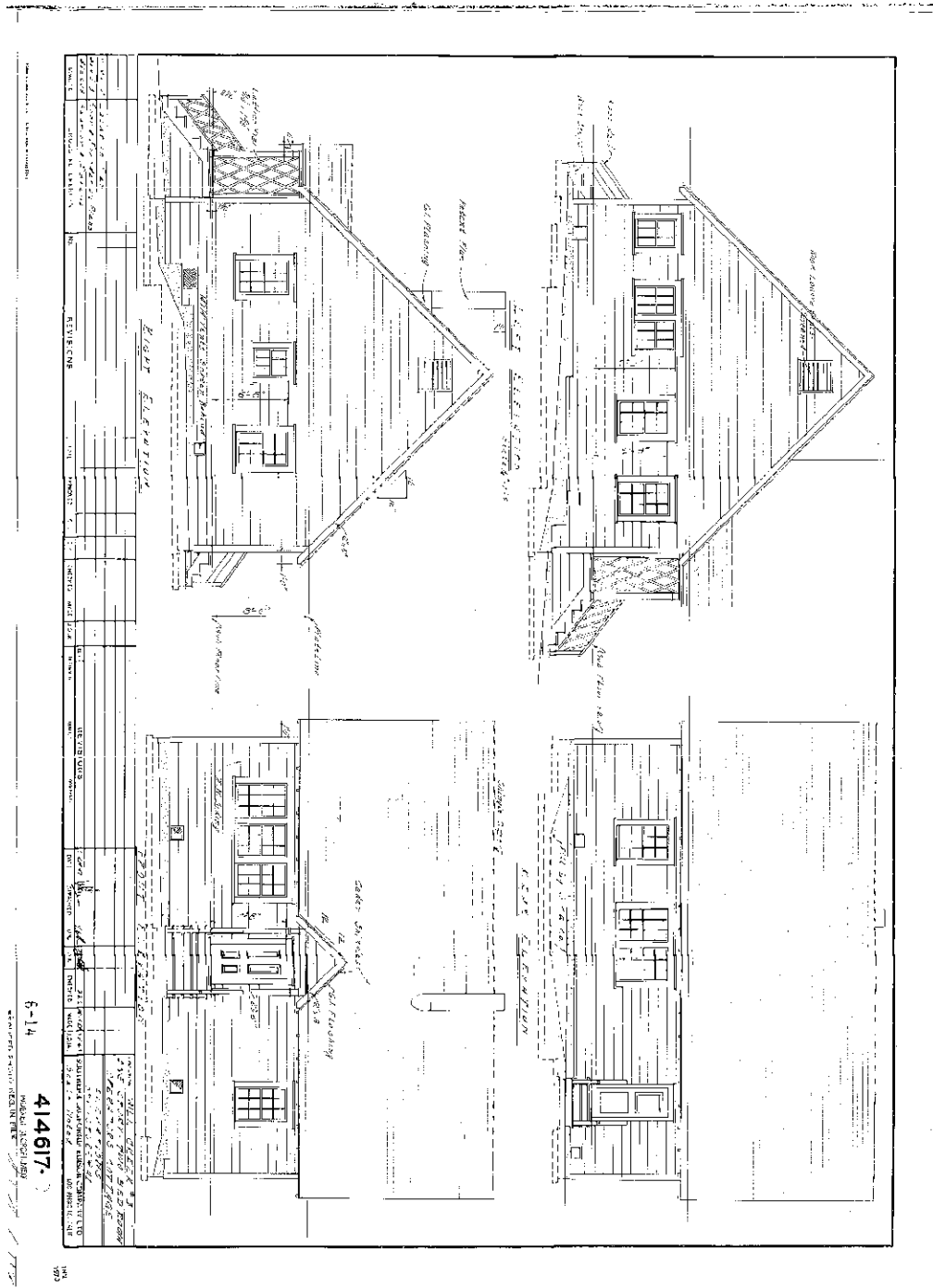
Flume Keeper's Cottage Site Map, Cottage A is located southeast of the Sandbox and Cottage B is located north of Cottage site A.

The figure contains two main architectural drawings:

- Top Drawing (Floor Plan):** A detailed floor plan of a building. It features a central rectangular area labeled "Main - Single 12' x 6' - 14' x 12'". Surrounding this are various rooms and corridors, including "Kitchen", "Living Room", "Bed Room", "Bath", and "Closet". Dimensions are provided for many of these spaces. A note at the bottom right reads "Water - Bathroom - 10' x 12'".
- Bottom Drawing (Section View):** A cross-section of the building, showing the internal structure. It includes labels for "Living Room", "Kitchen", "Bed Room", "Bath", and "Closet". Dimensions are provided for the height of the rooms and the overall building. A note at the bottom right reads "Water - Bathroom - 10' x 12'".

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Elevations of Flume Keeper's Cottage. (Drawings courtesy of Southern California Edison).